

## **REMARKS**

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Examiner's phone call on January 8, 2004 and the office action dated January 29, 2004. In view of the above-mentioned amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-4 and 30-37 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-4 and 30-37 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicants' invention.

### **Additional Amendments**

Claims 1-4 and 30-37 are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

### **Formality Rejection**

Claims 2-4 and 31 were objected for some informalities. Claims 1-4 and 30-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and requires that we match the particular components recited in the claims with the corresponding terms in the specification and reference numbers in the drawings. As indicated, the claims have been amended as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

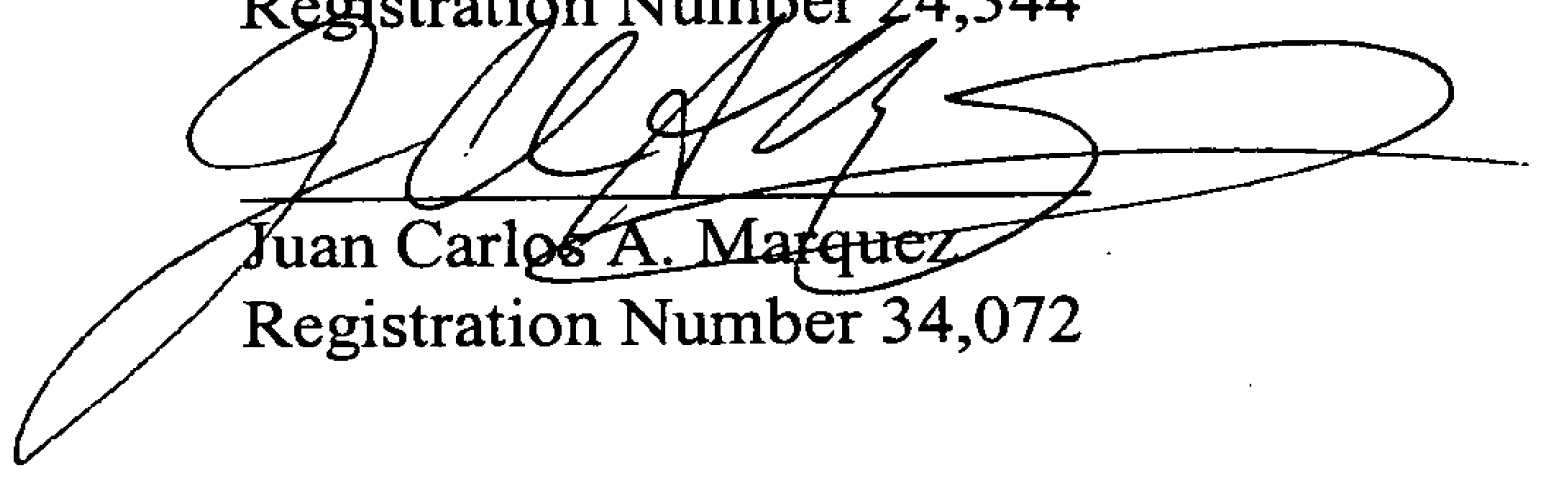
In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicant respectfully contends that the prior art references cannot anticipate

the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley P. Fisher  
Registration Number 24,344

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juan Carlos A. Marquez  
Registration Number 34,072

**REED SMITH LLP**  
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
(703) 641-4200

**March 16, 2004**

SPF/JCM/JT